

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 141279
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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. HURWITZ
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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 141279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON BYRD AMENDMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE ON BYRD AMENDMENT PREPARED
FOR JUNE 17 NOON BRIEFING:

QUOTE

QUESTION: THE BYRD AMENDMENT PASSED YESTERDAY REPRESENTS
REFUSAL BY THE SENATE TO ENDORSE PRESIDENT CARTER'S PLAN TO
WITHDRAW U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA. WHAT IS
YOUR REACTION TO THE RESOLUTION?

ANSWER: AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED AND AS THE BYRD
AMENDMENT NOTES WE ARE REGULARLY CONSULTING WITH CONGRESS
ON EVERY PHASE OF THE PLAN TO WITHDRAW U.S. GROUND FORCES
FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THIS REDUCTION WILL BE CARRIED
OUT IN STAGES CONSISTENT WITH THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF
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SOUTH KOREA AND U.S. INTERESTS IN ASIA AS THE RESOLUTION
URGES. MOREOVER, AND ALSO IN THE SPIRIT OF THE RESOLUTION,
WE ARE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH BOTH THE REPUBLIC OF
KOREA AND JAPAN WITH RESPECT TO OUR PHASED WITHDRAWAL
PROGRAM AND HAVE ASSURED THOSE NATIONS THAT THE STRENGTH
OF THE U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENT IN THE REGION WILL BE

MAINTAINED.

QUESTION: THE RESOLUTION ALSO STRESSES THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD KOREA SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ARRIVED AT BY JOINT POSITIONS OF THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS. WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT?

ANSWER: THE RESOLUTION'S STRESS ON CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION WITH CONGRESS ARE FULLY IN KEEPING WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENT. I DON'T WISH TO GET INTO THE COMPLEX QUESTION OF THE RELATIVE ROLES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES ON QUESTIONS OF POLICY FORMULATION. OBVIOUSLY, CONGRESS REALIZES THAT IT IS CLEAR IN HIS ROLE AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, THERE ARE CERTAIN DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT ALONE.

QUESTION: WILL YOU COMPLY WITH THE RESOLUTION'S REQUEST TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM?

ANSWER: YES

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2. TRANSCRIPT OF ACTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL BE CARRIED ON WIRELESS FILE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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